

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/684,460

Examiner

Henry N. Tran

Applicant(s)

MOTOYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the papers received 10/13/06 and 6/12/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14-28; and are renumbered as 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/662,879.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

*Henry N. Tran*  
Henry N Tran  
Primary Examiner 12/24/06  
Art Unit: 2629

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office action is in response to the supplemental Appeal Brief received 10/13/06 and the Reply Brief received 6/12/06. Applicants' Arguments, see pages 2-5 of the Reply Brief, with respect to the new ground of rejections recited in pages 3-6 of the Examiner's Answer mailed 4/12/06, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 14-21 and 24-28 have been withdrawn.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 14-18 are allowed; and are renumbered as 1-15.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to an electronic input device for providing visual color change in response to temperature change. The independent claim 14 requires a combination of features comprising a reversible chromatic layer (60) having at least two coatings (60A, 60B), each of said at least two coatings being structurally adapted to exhibit thermochromism, and a first sheet (62A) of a sheet-type switch portion (62) is being arranged between said reversible chromatic layer and a first electrode (63A) (see figures 4 and 12); whereas, the closest prior art, the Burk patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,228,562), the Ito International Publication (WO 94/14112 and the Kito et al patent (U.S. Patent No. 4,554,565) disclose conventional touch input devices, or a reversible thermochromic display, either singularly or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention; particularly, Itoh does not teach or suggest the upper conductive layer (1) being between the color-change layer (50) and a first electrode as specifically pointed out by the applicants, see page 3 of the Reply Brief.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry N. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-7760. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin H. Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HT  
12/24/06

  
**HENRY N. TRAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER** 12/24/06